



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

This abdication devolved the sovereignty of the nation on the National Assembly. The Republicans, at the head of whom were men of large ability and spotless integrity, after a provisional organization and the choice of an executive *pro hac vice*, succeeded in organizing the Republic. Although the transition was easy and the revolution was accomplished without violence, or bloodshed, or violation of the rights of property, or the favoring of any wild socialistic or communistic theories, yet the difficulties of government were insuperable and soon the Republic gave way to the Alfonsists. It would be a labor of love to vindicate the Republic, in its broad and enlightened statesmanship, from the persistent aspersions of prejudiced writers, but that would exceed the scope of the work under review. Not less agreeable would it be to pay the tribute of admiration to the present Queen of Spain, who redeems royalty from many of its merited reproofs, by her administrative capacity, her large intelligence, her generous charities, the purity of her life and by those womanly qualities which make her an honor to her sex.

The Evolution of France under the Third Republic. By BARON PIERRE DE COUBERTIN. Translated from the French by ISABEL F. HAPGOOD, with an introduction by ALBERT SHAW. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell and Co. 1897. Pp. xli, 430.)

THIS work does not purport to be strictly a history of the present French Republic. The narrative is not continuous enough, and the method of treatment is too disconnected for that. In fact, the author assumes a general familiarity with recent French politics, and the reader who has not that at command will not find the book perfectly easy to follow. The Baron de Coubertin has set to himself a newer and more interesting task, that of explaining the reasons for the course events have taken. He tries to show us why changes of ministry, which seem to the casual observer very much a matter of chance, are really the logical result of a continuous process of evolution. In this, there is much that is suggestive, though one hardly feels that the author has been in all cases perfectly successful. Surely, the fact that at times cabinet after cabinet has fallen without any sufficient reason, has been in itself the natural product of the political condition. Still the attempt to find a continuous sequence in all the political events under the Third Republic is exceedingly valuable, even if the thread at times seem attenuated.

While it is evident that the author belongs to the party of moderate Republicans which is now gaining strength rapidly among the educated classes in France, he is, in the main, just in his statements of policy, and fair in his judgment of men. He draws with an impartial hand a picture of the rule and fall of Thiers, and of the passionate struggle between MacMahon and the majority of the Chamber of Deputies. One of his few heroes is Jules Ferry, who, although never popular in the country at large, succeeded in imposing his will upon the Chamber of Deputies for a longer time than any other minister the Third Republic has had. It is,

indeed, a singular fact, and one which shows how far the parliamentary system has been from producing its normal results in France, that since the death of Gambetta no man has arisen who has been a real leader both of the Chamber of Deputies and of the nation.

The author expresses an opinion about the parliamentary system which is probably very common among thoughtful Frenchmen of to-day, when he says: "While fairly illogical in itself, the parliamentary form was better suited than any other to the century of transition, and it alone was able to guide Europe, and France in particular, from the monarchy by divine right to pure democracy." The very instability of cabinets which is commonly looked upon as a grave defect in the working of the system in France, he speaks of as the sheet anchor of the new order of things, because, he says, the French when discontented can be appeased only by the execution of a victim, and in this way the downfall of a ministry has been the means of satisfying popular rage, and thus averting revolution. He goes on to remark that the constant change of cabinets has not disorganized the administration, because a minister as a rule does not do much more than peep into the portfolio of which he is the custodian, the real work of administration being carried on by the permanent directors and heads of offices. One may perhaps be permitted, however, to question how many ministers have been sacrificed to public discontent, and how many to the mere ambitions and intrigues of groups of deputies which represent no real popular feeling at all.

In the middle of his chapters on political history the author inserts a very interesting one on "Colonial France," which will well repay careful reading. He is a strong believer in the policy of colonial expansion. In this matter he thinks the statesmen have been more farsighted than the public, who are decidedly apathetic on the subject. Yet he recognizes that the colonies acquired by the Republic are very far from being a success. This he attributes to the constant interference of the home government with the colonial administration, to its desire to extend over them the centralized, paternal, bureaucratic system of France, and in no less degree to the lack of enterprising commercial spirit on the part of the French merchants and manufacturers; in short, to the spirit of routine on the part of both government and people. He thinks that the Frenchman is not by nature a bad colonist, but that the education which he receives gives him the appearance of being so. It breaks his initiative, represses his energy, trains him to fear and obedience—in a word, shapes him to the exact reverse of what is expected of a future colonist. If this be true, to expect France to make a success of her colonies is, indeed, like expecting the leopard to change his spots.

To the ordinary reader, this chapter and the four last ones in the book which deal with education, the army, literature and socialism, will probably be more interesting than the discussion of political events. The Baron de Coubertin is perhaps a better authority on educational and social questions than on political ones; at any rate, we are not as familiar with them.

It is unfortunate that in the translation too much effort has been made to preserve French idioms. This has resulted, of course, in bad English, sometimes in sentences which are well nigh incomprehensible. On page 226, for example, this sentence occurs, "In the conservative ranks only a few rare independents expressed the indignation." On page xxxviii of the preface a passage from De Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* is translated as follows: "The ruling class of the Empire was, pre-eminently, a syndicate of protection guilty of much egotism, and with a taste which was dangerous to immobility."

A. L. LOWELL.

A Students' History of the United States. By EDWARD CHANNING, Professor of History in Harvard University. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1898. Pp. xi, 603.)

A School History of the United States. By JOHN BACH McMASTER, Professor of American History in the University of Pennsylvania. (New York, Cincinnati, Chicago: The American Book Company. 1897. Pp. 476, 31.)

The Student's American History. By D. H. MONTGOMERY. (Boston and London: Ginn and Co. 1897. Pp. 523, lv.)

A History of the United States for Schools. By WILBUR F. GORDY, Principal of the North School, Hartford. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1898. Pp. xi, 478.)

PROFESSOR CHANNING'S book, decidedly the best one-volume American history yet published, is admirably fitted for use as a text-book with advanced secondary classes. In the preface the author has explained that his purpose in the publication of this work is to provide a text-book suited to the needs of the senior class in high schools and academies. He believes that "the serious study of American history more fitly follows than precedes other countries and belongs to the maturer years of school life." The book is not adapted to the use of young pupils. The author assumes a considerable knowledge of American history on the part of pupils from the use of more elementary text-books in the lower grades. He accordingly omits all the stock stories and anecdotes which form so large a part of our elementary text-books. The work is scholarly, dignified and interesting. It is full of suggestions for both teachers and pupils. Miss Anna Boynton Thompson of Thayer Academy has written a chapter entitled "Suggestions to Teachers" in which she has described her own methods of teaching. These suggestions will be very helpful to the teacher if he accepts them as "suggestions" and not as rules. Some of the suggestions would be impracticable with a large class. They should prove of peculiar value in preparing pupils for the new requirements for entrance to college. Especially valuable and useful are the marginal references on every page to standard works which contain a fuller account of each topic. Each chapter is headed by a list of books, special ac-